

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE : Derrick Kendrick on Albert Dresler:

INTERVIEWER : Michael Clarke

INTERVIEW DATE : 26 October 1998

RESTRICTION ON USE : None

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
00 - 13	Introduction by interviewer. Kendrick appointed Senior Lecturer in Building Science in new School of Architecture at Uni. of Adelaide, SA. Retired in 1992 as Dean of Faculty of Architecture & Planning. Kendrick described by Em. Prof. H J Cowan as best authority on Dr Albert Dresler, who had an enormous influence on design for natural lighting.	Building Science. School of Architecture at Uni. of Adelaide, SA. Faculty of Architecture & Planning. Em. Prof. H J Cowan. Dr Albert Dresler.
13 - 16	Kendrick born 10.5.27 in Chester, Cheshire, England.	Chester, Cheshire, England.
16 - 66	Explains how he developed an interest in Dresler. 1988 delivered paper to Sydney Illuminating Engineering Lighting Conference, reviewing Dresler's contribution to Aust'n lighting. Townsend and Oberman triggered Kendrick's interest in writing Dresler's story. Aims to finish monograph by 17.7.99, 50th anniversary of Dresler's arrival in Australia.	Mick Townsend and Les Oberman both of Victoria. Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Lois Sweet, Secretary of Illuminating Engineering Society. Bert Heitsch (architect). Evelyn Hoffman, Dresler's daughter and her husband Bodo.
66 - 74	Account of Dresler's death on 17.7.63.	RMIT
74 - 88	Explanation of terms "natural lighting" and "day lighting".	Natural lighting. Daylighting. International Lighting Commission.
88 - 133	Development of Dresler's interest in day lighting. Joined Aust. National Committee on Illumination and participated in Int'l Lighting Commission's Committee on daylight. Became chair and produced a draft International Daylighting Guide following the failure of his two predecessors. Document all but accepted by Int'l Committee on his death in 1963. Finalised by Jim Lowson. Kendrick joined Aust'n National Committee and replaced Dresler on latter's death.	Aust. National Committee on Illumination. Int'l Lighting Commission. Peter Petherbridge. Building Research Station in Britain. Dep't Labour & Nat'l Service. Natural lighting diagrams. Jim Lowson. Ferranti in Rugby, England.

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
133 - 197	Dresler's beginnings. Born in Surbiton 31.3.04 . Parents German. Interned on outbreak of war in 1914 then exchanged for British nationals from Germany. Lived at Gera. Obtained rounded full education under grandfather. Joined Technical Hochschule in Berlin 1922 to study at Institut fur Lichttechnik and worked with highly regarded lighting engineer Prof. Arndt. Left in 1933 to become Director Physical & Measurement Lab. in Osram Coy.	Surbiton. World War 1. Gera, Germany. Technical Hochschule in Berlin. Institut fur Lichttechnik. Prof. Arndt. Physical & Measurement Lab. in Osram Coy.
197 - 232	Obtained Doctorate in 1930. Developed special colour photo cell corrected for the human eye - became referred to as the "Dresler Principle". One is in Building Materials Research Centre, Berlin (BAM). Describes principles of colour correction.	Building Materials Research Centre, Berlin. (BAM). "Dresler Principle".
232 - 248	Comments about Osram and lack of co-operation in researching Dresler.	
248 - 302	Dresler's work at Osram was mainly testing lamps. Noticed wave motion corresponding with lunar changes. Australian Building Research Congress held at Monash Univ. in 1963. Dinner at Dresler's house - Ian Langlands, Chief of CSIRO Division of Building Research, Jim Lowson, Kendrick, Trevor Quoit? Dept. of Labour & National Service heating & ventilation expert based in Adelaide + others.	Ian Langlands, Chief of CSIRO Division of Building Research, Jim Lowson, Trevor Quoit? Dept. of Labour & National Service heating & ventilation expert based in Adelaide
302 - 319	At Osram came under influence of Dr Dr Myer, Chief of Osram and Chair of German National Committee on Illumination. Made Dresler the Secretary - formed good relationship with National Physics Lab. at Teddington, UK, with Americans, with Dr John Preston of National Physics Lab. and John Holmes a colour expert at a Wembley lighting plant .	Dr Dr Myer. German National Committee on Illumination. National Physics Lab. at Teddington, UK. Dr John Preston of National Physics Lab. John Holmes
319 - 328	Discussion about Dresler's speaking engagements.	
328 - 355	Discussion on functions of German National Committee on Illumination.	
355 - 371	Discussion on Dresler's publications - mainly in the Osram journal. Little known about Dresler during WW2.	
371 - 408	Dresler's movements after WW2. Childhood books.	

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
00 - 33	Tape identification. Childhood books.	<i>Topsy Turvey Land. Alice in Wonderland. Through the Looking Glass.</i>

33 - 65	Berlin July 1945. Dresler in British sector and employed to get Osram factory back in production. About 3 years after war, attends meeting of International Lighting Commission in Paris.	Osram factory. Meeting of International Lighting Commission in Paris.
65 - 109	Noticed in 1946 that Russians and French were sending German engineers and scientists back to their countries, so Americans and British followed suit. Refers to Tom Bower's book <i>The Paperclip Conspiracy</i> . Australia and Canada joined in. Scheme called ESTEA - Employment of Scientific and Technical Aliens. 144 came to Australia from 1946 to 1942 and only 14 returned after their contract expired. Dresler was one that came under the scheme.	<i>The Paper Clip Conspiracy</i> . ESTEA - Employment of Scientific and Technical Aliens.
109 - 167	Dresler arrived in Sydney 17.7.49 and interviewed within 24 hours by Sydney Technical College about lighting education. (Had conducted lighting courses in Berlin from 1946 to 1949). Dresler's notes used by STC and RMIT. Copy of notes held by former student of D's, Denis Irving of Entertech P/L. Dresler went to Melbourne, but returned to Sydney in early October for discussions with numerous groups. Reports by Sim Holman of Dep't of Labour & National Service attest to his superior knowledge compared with Australian counterparts - Standards Association, Committees on interior lighting about development of a new lighting code, Dr Giovenelli, Chief National Standards Measurement Laboratory, Dept of Main Roads about street lighting, Electric Lamp Manufacturers Association in Newcastle in connection with production of fluorescent tubes.	Sydney Technical College. RMIT. Denis Irving of Entertech P/L. Sim Holman of Dept of Labour & National Service. Standards Association, Dr Giovenelli, Chief National Standards Measurement Laboratory, Dept of Main Roads, Electric Lamp Manufacturers Association
167 - 206	Discussion of possibility of Dresler being involved with development of fluorescent lighting. Impact of fluorescent lighting. Ralph Phillips eminent British lighting engineer refers to windowless buildings as "cellars in the sky".	Fluorescent lighting. Ralph Phillips, "cellars in the sky".
206 - 302	Dresler's work in Melbourne. Discussion of Dresler's versatility.	Ralph Phillips. Architectural Control of Sunlight Penetration.
302 - 396	Dresler at RMIT. Students regarded him as Prussian but had tremendous respect for him. Was a member of the Physics Society. Became Chair of Australian National Committee on Illumination in 1955. Represented Aust. on International Lighting Commission.	Physics Society. Hal Fallon. Australian National Committee on Illumination. Dr Bill Blevin.
396 - 431	Dresler established Australia's place in the international lighting scene.	Prof. Jack Cowan. <i>Architectural Science Review</i> .

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
00 - 04	Tape identification.	
04 - 44	Dresler's courting and marriage to Bertha. Married 31.3.34. Evelyn (only child) born 1938.	Evelyn
44 - 50	Evelyn: Roberston School, Melbourne; became a teacher.	Evelyn. Roberston School.
50 - 102	Comments about Dresler's remuneration and status. No superannuation when he died. His boss was Jim Lowson and a very good friend. Bertha survived Dresler by seven years. Evelyn married Bodo Hoffman a chemist and teacher. They have no children. Evelyn a primary school teacher.	Jim Lowson. Evelyn. Bodo Hoffman.

102 - 136	Concluding remarks: Helped in writing his monograph on Dresler by a seminar given by Michael Holbrook eminent biographer from Oxford University. Mentor in writing the book is Don Johnson an American living in Australia (has written books on Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burley Griffin).	Michael Holbrook. Don Johnson. Frank Lloyd Wright. Walter Burley Griffin
-----------	---	--